NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

March 13, 1997

Coming to work?

SHOW YOUR ID!

On Monday, March 17, access control procedures will be enhanced for employees entering at all doors. As in the past, staff members are required to display their Identification Badges whenever entering the building. However, beginning Monday, staff members without an ID will be required to sign in and be issued a temporary ID as has been done in the past. The temporary ID must then be turned in at the end of the day upon exiting the building. Please note that this procedure applies al day, not only during the hours the Museum is closed to the public.

In addition, the Equipment Office is asking for the return of all temporary badges which are still in staff members possession. Temporary badges are intended for one-day use only, and are not to be a substitute for the permanent ID. -- **Ron Cundiff**

PAYROLL REMINDER

Due to the staff holiday, Good Friday, all time sheets must be forwarded to the Payroll Office by noon on Thursday, March 20, 1997. Due to direct deposits, we MUST have time sheets early. Paychecks will be distributed on Thursday, March 27, 1997 for all staff. Questions? Call **Doris** (x220) or **Sandy** (x289) in Human Resources.

Take care of your environment

CRUSH A BOX!

Recycling is on everybody's mind. But some aspects of recycling are easier than others. For example, the blue trash cans make it easy for you to handle paper. Unfortunately, cardboard boxes can be more difficult.

Clear cardboard boxes should be broken down flat (paper packing material is OK too, but no Styrofoam please) and then brought to the nearest cardboard recycling station in your area. (Wondering where that is? Call **Michael Benham**, Housekeeping, x499.) From there Housekeeping personnel will take the cardboard to the loading dock. That part hasn't changed.

However, one aspect of the way we recycle cardboard has definitely changed for the better. When Housekeeping brings your boxes to the loading dock they will be able to put them in the ***new cardboard bailer.*** This wonderful machine allows us to compact and bundle cardboard in 1,000 lb. bales. These bales are much easier to store and to haul away. A very important side benefit: we are now putting less cardboard into the general trash. This means less space taken up in the landfills, and less expense for the Museum for hauling trash. So, take out your aggressions and take care of your environment: **CRUSH A BOX!**

THE REAL DEAL: Real Stories on Health Screenings

During the Health Fair in January 1997, participants with blood sugar or blood pressure levels that were higher or lower than the norm received confidential counseling by the health service representative and were encouraged to see their physician.

The Human Resources Department was made aware of several staff situations where there was follow-up with a doctor - with important results. We would like to share with you three of these real stories...

- For one staff member, counseling received during the Fair prompted a call to a doctor who scheduled an immediate appointment. Following examination, the staff member was shocked to learn that a serious high blood pressure condition existed and that if unchecked, would have led to a stroke. The staff member is now on medication and will be for life.

- Another staff member was not surprised to receive counseling following the blood pressure screening as there had been recent and unexplained health issues. An evaluation with the doctor resulted in a diet and exercise program being suggested as there was a borderline blood pressure diagnosis.

- The blood pressure of a staff member with a history of medical services was so high that the health service representative encouraged an immediate visit with a physician -- and then followed-up with a phone call to the staffer a day later. The doctor is now involved and has made recommendations to the staff member regarding treatment.

All three staff members notified the Human Resources Department that they were glad we had provided the screenings and that they had taken the time to participate. We're glad too!

HUMAN RESOURCES to Provide Blood Pressure Screening

If you missed the blood pressure screening in January 97 or wish to have your blood pressure taken again, mark Tuesday, March 18, 1997 on your calendar. Details follow:

Who:	FM Staff and Volunteers
What:	Blood Pressure Screening MercyWorks
Where:	Dining Room C/D
When:	Tuesday, March 18, 1997 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Questions? Call **Jennifer Noe** (x526).

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

Between February 26-March 1, 1997, Curator **John Edward Terrell**, (Anthropology) and Director of the New Guinea Research Program, was one of fourteen invited participants at a conference on "Explaining Global Human Diversity" at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The conference, which was organized by Dr. John Moore, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at UF, was sponsored by the Population Biology and Anthropology Programs at the National Science Foundation. Afterwards, Terrell flew to Tallahassee to lecture at Florida State University and work with Dr. Mary Pohl of the Department of Anthropology at FSU on developing an NSF geoarchaeology proposal for the Sepik coast of Papua New Guinea. Terrell's archaeological discoveries late last year in New Guinea are talked about in the latest issue of *Archaeology* magazine (vol. 50, no. 2, 1997), complete with an illustration of one of his startling discoveries done by Scientific Illustrator **Zbigniew Jastrzebski** (Anthropology).

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

CHICAGO WILDERNESS AWARDED GRANT

Illinois Governor Jim Edgar allocated $1.6 million to 15 local public-private partnerships dedicated to natural resource restoration projects under the Illinois Conservation 2000 initiative. As part of this initiative, the Chicago Wilderness Partnership was awarded grant money totaling $87,200. Part of the funding allocated to Chicago Wilderness will go towards creating a video for the *New Explorers* television series, in cooperation with Kurtis Productions. Environmental Educator in Residence, **Carol Fialkowski** (Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs, ECP) is The Field Museum contact for this program. The program will focus on the diverse ecology of the Chicago Wilderness region, and to the efforts to conserve and restore our natural riches.

RIEPPER RETURNS FROM CHINA

Curator **Olivier Rieppel** (Geology) just returned from a two weeks' trip to the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, where he studied the Sauropterygia from the Middle Triassic of China, and presented two lectures. The Sauropterygia from China will provide crucial information on the phylogeny and paleobiogeography of this clade of Mesozoic marine reptiles. Olivier also discovered a "forgotten" fossil of eminent importance, probably the most primitive thalattosaur, another radiation of Triassic marine reptiles. People at the IVPP were most helpful and supportive, rendering Olivier's first trip to China a great experience. There has been talk between Olivier and the IVPP to start collaborative projects, including fieldwork, in the marine Triassic of China.

On Sunday, March 9, **Debra Moskovits** (Director, Environmental and Conservation Programs) and Vice President **Peter Crane** (Academic Affairs) hosted a group from the National Association of Environmental Law Societies for a lecture and behind the scenes tour. This program was organized in conjunction with the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Minister reaches out with scholarship fund

By Meghan Deerin
Staff Writer

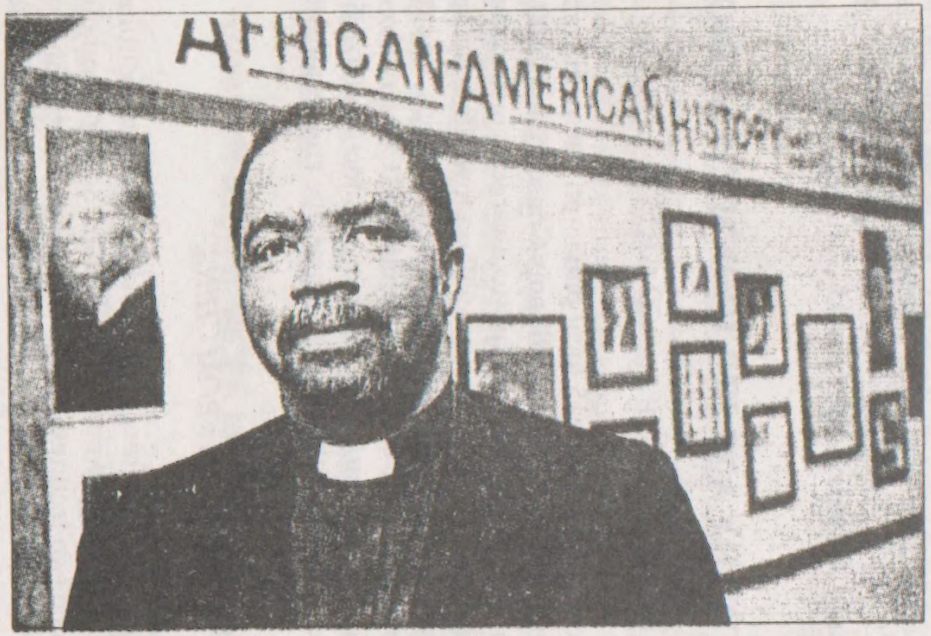
Alonzo Spencer has raised his four daughters but is doing his best to ensure that high-achieving students from his South Shore neighborhood to Gary have the financial help they need to stay in school.

Spencer, 54, a minister and a security guard, and his wife, Gloria, created a small scholarship fund six years ago to help kids who strive to stay on the straight-and-narrow but could use some help with the little, but necessary, things such as shoes and books.

SOUTHTOWNERS

The scholarship fund sprang out of a Black History Month program that Spencer organizes each year for the Pickens Memorial Temple, 5659 S. Union Ave., Chicago.

"I was a history major in school, and this gave me an opportunity to provide teaching to our young people about their history," said Spencer, who works as a security guard at the Field Museum. "We teach them to recite poems by Langston Hughes so they can see what African-Americans have achieved."



Bill Konway/Daily Southtown

Alonzo Spencer, who lives in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, is a minister who runs a scholarship fund to assist area youth.

Four years after starting the history program, Spencer, who is now an ordained minister at Pickens Memorial Temple, founded the scholarship fund. He estimated that 125 elementary, high school and college students from the South Side, southeast suburbs and northwest Indiana have benefited from the funds.

"I didn't want to focus just on my children but others as well to impact an entire area," Spencer said.

The program began small, with awards of $5 and $10 doled out to children who belonged to the church and demonstrated academic achievement, good deportment and leadership qualities. News of the program spread, and now awards are as much as $300 to any student who meets the criteria as well as financial need.

With the support of his pastor, Elder Van W. Wells, and the Pickens congregation, Spencer expects to see the annual fund grow even larger. It now reaches about $3,000 before being distributed.

"We would like to provide monthly stipends for college students," Spencer said. "The money would go directly into an account for the student to pay for books, tuition and living expenses."

Spencer and his wife, who are still paying one daughter's college tuition, spend every spare minute at the church, working to raise money for the scholarship program. He said community involvement is essential to combat the dangers, such as gangs and drugs, that today's youth face.

"It's important that each household, both mother and father, get involved and volunteer because in just a little time we can turn this thing around."

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday March 11, 1997 was delivered by **Chap Kusimba,** Assistant Curator, African Archaeology and Ethnology, Department of Anthropology, Field Museum. Chap reviewed the changes in trade relations between the Swahili peoples of the East African Coast and their Indian Ocean partners. From about 500 AD to 1800 AD more that 450 villages-towns-cities arose and flourished along the coast of East Africa from southern Kenya southward to northern Mozambique. Portuguese traders interrupted pre-existing trade relations. Chap estimated more than 300 of the trading sites were abandoned in the first twenty years following European contact.

Chap's recent work has focused on the village of Mtwapa. The oldest section of the village, about 9 acres adjacent to the coast, was occupied from 1150 AD to about 1750 AD and not inhabited since. The area was a well developed city enclosure including 64 structures. Detailed excavation of 6 of the houses has revealed numerous levels of occupation. Preliminary analyses of artifacts substantiates extensive maritime trade between eastern coastal Africa and Madagascar to the south, and India, Indonesia and China to the north.

NEW PHONE BOOKS IN SUPPLY ROOM

The Ameritech white, yellow and business phone books have arrived. Please send a representative from your department to pick them up in the Supply Room across from the Mailroom on the ground floor.

Editor's note: *Here is a cautionary tale -- for some members of the public, the term "Dead Animal Zoo" captures what they like best.*

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Sirs,
Your comment form just isn't roomy enough. I grew up in Evanston and did not move to California until 1968. I made many trips back but only once was there time to include the Museum. It was still aisles and aisles of exhibits and even tho fantastic a bit boring to a young person. But it was always a fun place to go on a Sunday.

Bushman of course was a must to see because as a child, I watched him as thousands of others did.

The one I missed seeing is Mimi the giant Panda. Again I watched her and two of her sisters arrive at Brookfield Zoo. One of them did not survive very long, but Sue Linn and Mimi played and delighted all. Mimi lived a long and hopefully happy life. I still love the Pandas and it's rewarding to be able to watch the ones on loan to us from China at the San Diego Zoo. Maybe you might consider a display with Mimi (I was told she was in storage.) I bet there are lots of people who visit that would if they saw her remember Mimi also.

Most of all the mummies and the tomb really impressed me.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

Printed on recycled paper.

Late-Breaking News!
Field Museum's Harris Loan Center Goes On Line!

The Field Museum Education Department swerves out onto the information highway this week with the debut of Harris Loan Center's 1997 website! Accessed through the current Field Museum home page currently on the University of Illinois-Chicago server, the new Harris site is more than just a digital version of the annual program catalog. Harris on-line gives Chicago-area educators an visual tour of new loan materials, lets eager website browsers download registration and loan order forms, and promotes the use of e-mail requests for further program information. Harris registrar and *webmeister* **Adam Kashuba** made it all happen, with the help of new Academic Affairs intern **Brad Loetel**. Not content to leave things alone, we'll soon be adding such things as age-group recommendations for teaching materials, and information on how our materials help teachers meet state-mandated goals for learning. And what's in the future? We can envision doing all loan transactions electonically through the internet, but using a "Star Trek" transporter to make experience boxes magically appear in Chicago classrooms is probably pretty far off. For now, area educators will continue to pick up Harris materials and return them the old-fashioned way. Log on and see what we have to offer at:
http://www.bvis.uic.edu/museum/education/Harris_Loan/index.html

Day Care Update ...

When: Friday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Dining Room E (near McDonald's)

The Day Care Task Force has been investigating options for child care over the last few months. All staff are invited to attend an open forum to discuss progress to date and to share other ideas. Any questions prior to the meeting should be directed to **Heidi Snell** (x531). Hope to see you there!

Diane White will be Officer of the Day this weekend, March 15-16.

ALL IN THE FIELD FAMILY

The *Daily South Town* article about Alonzo Spencer included in this issue was written by the daughter of Sheila Mutchler (Exhibits).

SHIPPING DOCK SCHEDULING

Reminder: All shipping, receiving, dumping, catering or other events requiring use of the dock must be scheduled in advance by calling **A. Bluntson** (x287) in the Shipping office. Crown Construction Enterprises will start the renovation of the dock on Monday, March 17 at 8:00 a.m. The project should be completed by the end of September 1997.